GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4287
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Role of States in NMEP
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Government has approved the National Mineral Exploration Policy in a bid to attract private sector investment into exploration of non-fuel and non-coal minerals;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the role of States in this new policy; and
(d) the extent to which the new policy is different from the earlier policy?

Answer

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP) has been approved by the Government and is available at the website of Ministry of Mines (http://mines.nic.in/writereaddata/Content/NMEP.pdf). The policy, inter-alia, proposes:
1. The Government will create baseline geoscientific data as a public good and will make available pre-competitive baseline geoscientific data of the highest standards free of charge in public domain.
2. The Government will carry out aero-geophysical survey of the country in a mission mode initially in the potential areas of around 8 lakh sq. kms and subsequently in the rest of the areas.
3. A National Geoscientific Data Repository (NGDR) will be set up to collate all baseline and mineral exploration information generated by various central and state government agencies and also mineral concession holders and maintain these on a geospatial database.
4. The Government will establish a National Centre for Mineral Targeting (NCMT) in collaboration with geoscientific organisations, academia and industry to target concealed and deep-seated mineral deposits.
5. The Government will carry out auctioning of identified exploration blocks for exploration by private sector on a suitable revenue sharing basis in case their exploration leads to auctionable resources. In case no auctionable resources are discovered, exploration expenditure will be reimbursed on normative cost basis.
(c): State Governments have a key role to play in building up a steady stream of auctionable mineral prospects. They are required to take mineral exploration reports prepared by Geological Survey of India or other agencies and build on them to carry out G3 or G2 levels of exploration. Further, States need to build up the exploration capabilities of their organisations. The exploration blocks will be allotted to private explorers through open competitive bidding/auction process by the State Government with active support from Ministry of Mines and its central agencies.

(d): An exclusive National Mineral Exploration Policy has been formulated for the first time by the Central Government. The policy facilitates greater role of private sector in mineral exploration. It proposes, inter-alia, to carry out aerogeophysical mapping of the country, make available baseline data free of cost as public good, collate and share data of various exploration agencies, and provide a structured framework for targeting deep-seated and concealed mineral deposits.
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